THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL,
PUBLISHED DAILY BY
THE PITTSBURGH NEWSPAPER AND PRINTING COMPANY.
Office, 76 Fifth Street
(OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.)
C. B. BRIGHAM.....EDITOR
M. B. THOMPSON.....BUSINESS MANAGER.
TERMS OF THE DAILY:
Single Copy.....4 Cents.
Delivered by Carrier, (per week.).....25 Cents
Mail Subscribers, (per year).....$10 00
Address
THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

CITY ITEMS.

Purviance's Card Photographs,
Are taken in any weather, in all the various popular styles, singly or by the dozen, at 25 cents each. We guarantee satisfaction. Gallery corner Fifth and Market streets.

New Books.
everal new books received yesterday at Pittock's.

Latest from Egypt.
Penney's new extract of the Egyptian Lotus, a new and exquisite perfume for the handkerchief. Cleopatra and the ladies of the present day using the same perfume. Price, one dollar per bottle. Manufactured by F. A. Penney, Brooklyn, N. Y. Sold by all Druggists and dealers in fancy goods. Equal to the imported. Ask your druggist for it. It is the most reliable article in the market.

Unbated Excitement.
At the great hat, cap and ladies' fur house of Wm. Fleming, No. 139 Wood street, where you will find one of the largest and finest assortment of ladies and misses' furs ever before offered for sale in this city, consisting in part of full sets Hudson Bay sable, mink sable, German fitch, Siberian squirrel, black and brown sables, ladies' fur hoods and skating caps, gents' fine fur caps, collars and gloves, all of which will be sold at the lowest prices. Don't forget the place, Wm. Fleming's hat, cap and ladies' fur emporium, No. 139 Wood street, sign of the large golden Hat.

Pharoah's Serpents.
A second supply of Pharoah's serpents received at Pittock's.

No Sewing Machine
Will embroider but a Grover & Baker.

Magnificent Present for a Lady.
Now that everybody is investing more or less spare cash in the way of making their friends happy, we have a word of advice to people of sense, to wit: Put the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing machine, sold at No 27 Fifth street, in the list of appropriate and valuable gift to a lady that could be made. We designate the Wheeler & Wilson because it is universally admitted to be superior to any other in use. Their orders for this purpose have already been unusually numerous.

Wholesale Buyers.
Examine the stock of Bates & Bell's, 21 Fifth street. They have an excellent assortment, and can offer the most complete lines of standard domestic goods, at the low est net prices, can be had. All domestic goods are sold at New York quotations. A careful examination of their stock will repay a call.

Fenian Pins
At Pittock's.

Every One Buys Them.
Such was the remark of a lady friend of ours in speaking of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines the other day. Every one buys them because they are speedier, more reliable machine in all respects than any other in use. These machines can be had at the office of E. P. Carpenter, 27 Fifth street, where a fine collection of them is always kept on hand.

Get None
But a Grover & Baker for a Christmas gift.

Central Park Skating Club.
Proposals will be received until December 16th for the lease of the Restaurant and Skate rooms of the Central Park Skating Company, 9th Ward, Pittsburgh. For further information apply to D. P. Corwin, Superintendent, office Citizens' line of Passenger Railway Company, Penn street, or to John K. Shrigley, P. Ft. W. C. R'y Co.'s Freight Office, Penn street.

Miss Reignolds.
Card Photographs of this lady at Pittock's.

Country and City Dealers
Who have not visited Bates & Bell's, 21 Fifth street, will do well to call and examine the large stock now on exhibition. The goods are all fresh, bought at the lowest market times, and will be sold at the New York quotations.

None but a Grover & Baker
Will answer for all family purposes.

Reunion Presentation.
The elegant set of silver purchased by the Eagle Fire Company No. 1, and which has been on exhibition during the past week, will be drawn for at City Hall, on Friday evening, December 15, 1865. Every person on entering the hall will be presented with a prize card which will entitle them to a chance in the drawing. We have no doubt, from the care taken in making arrangements for the entertainment as well as the drawing, that a pleasant time may be anticipated, and would advise all our friends, especially the ladies, to be present on the occasion. Don't forget City Hall, Friday evening, December 15, 1865.

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The great semi annual sale of dry goods, for the purpose of closing out their present stock by Barker & Co., 59 Market street, is attracting the attention of buyers, as it should do, for right in the face of the fact that prices are advancing all around, we will continue to sell at old prices, and offer a most desirable stock and splendidly as sorted.

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A NEW RAILROAD CHECK.—An ingenious railroad check has just been invented by a Mr. G. C. Thomas, of Cincinnati. The check given to the passenger differs from the one now in use, in that the name of the station to which the baggage is checked does not appear. The check attached to the baggage consists of two movable disks, one containing the names of intermediate stations, and the other the names of all intermediate stations. The advantages claimed are that it greatly decreases the number of checks required for the business of the road, the same one answering for any station on the road. A way bill from any station to a station to any other is a second application of the same principle.

A LUDICROUS QUESTION OF RACE.—An action is now pending before one of the New York Courts, in which a gentleman claims that he has been injured to the extent of $5,000 by being described as a colored person in one of the city directories. The gentleman alleges, also, that of a collector—which calling was indicated on his sign in the abbreviated form, "Coll."—the reporter for the publication of the directory made a note of this fact. But in the hands of the printer, the abbreviation "Coll." became transformed into "Cold," and "Cold" into "African," or "freedman." How the mistake caused the collector to lose $5,000 we are not informed.

NORTHERN CAPITALISTS IN VIRGINIA—LARGE SALES OF LANDS.—The Rockingham (Va.) *Register* reports the recent sale of 12,280 acres of timbered land in Rockingham and Augusta counties, Va.: 10,000 acres in North Mountain, land belonging to Messrs. Crick & Speer, 8,000 belonging to Daniel Cupp, and 1,280 acres known as Union Springs, belonging to Messrs. Armstrong & Mayers. This land has all been sold to a company of capitalists from Philadelphia, Pa. The sales were made for cash. The price is not stated.

A FRENCH DUEL.—In the COMMERCIAL of December 7 there appeared an item concerning a duel stating that Mr. Clayton, Esq., and ex-Alderman Hamilton, of Philadelphia, were about to fight a duel on account of a business transaction. The parties held to bail, Mr. Clayton informs us, were Robert Alsop, Jonathan Walters and John Barrow. Messrs. Clayton and Mortimer going witnesses for the prosecution, Mr. Eli Everett.

The Daily Commercial

Railway and River Transportation.

There appears to be a very general oversight of some very important facts connected with the large earnings of the railroads. It is overlooked that the large increase of freights is due to the Mississippi transportation having been stopped by the war. With one of the great arteries of the Western commerce closed, the gutting of the railroads with produce was inevitable, and the roads being free from competition were able to charge just such rates of freight as they pleased.

But is this monopoly of transportation likely to continue one day longer than is necessary for providing the facilities for river transportation? Already vigorous efforts are being made to crowd the "Father of Waters" with steamboats, and the merchants of the West are combining to put their own lines supplies, as a means of bringing down the oppressive rates charged by the railroads. The limitation of the present large earnings of the roads is therefore only a question of time; when an adequate amount of river transportation can be provided, the roads will be compelled to accept lower charges upon a reduced amount of freight. If they are disposed to fight the rivers to quandies by a severe reduction of rates, the consequence must be a return to a condition but little better than that of four years ago; if they are not, then Western produce will take the Mississippi route to foreign countries, to the injury alike of the roads and of the Eastern commercial centres. The Western farmers complain that the railroad companies, by exacting such high charges, are swallowing up all their profits, and appear to be unanimously resolved to have their produce carried to the markets cheaper than at present.—*N. Y. Commercial.*

Interesting from St. Domingo.

From St. Domingo we have advices dated to November 7. The existing government is at a loss to know whether the Dominican republic is fully an independent American power or simply an appanage of France. A semi-official meeting of the Dominican Congress had taken place on the 20 ult., when the expediency of sending another envoy to Washington, with the proffer of a naval depot on the bay of Manzanilla as a fee to the United States, was discussed at length, but it was finally decided that no step should be taken in the matter if General Baez, the recently elected President, was in the capital as soon as expected. The new official, though elected through foreign influence, enjoys only a considerable popularity, and it was all privily-gos to emigrants and settlers. The people of St. Domingo and their representatives in Congress complain bitterly of the conduct of the United States towards their country, and urge that the Monroe doctrine be now applied upon by the Union Government, "whose Secretary of State," they allege, "endorsed the right of Spain to extinguish the life of a nation by force." It is suggested that if the Dominican republic were to obtain national recognition by the United States it would be expected to be annexed to the latter country to sustain its attitude as part and parcel of the American system.

American Securities Abroad.

In reference to American securities, Satterthwaite's London circular says: "The speculative market for American securities has shown less activity during the last week than for some time past, the demand for United States five-twenty bonds on Continental account having almost ceased for the present, though the last quotation—86@86¼—is only a trifle under quotation from the price of last week. Illinois and Erie shares were both neglected until the arrival of the steamer, but a fair amount of business sprung up for Eries, on which they improved about one dollar, closing at 56@56½. Illinois advanced slightly in sympathy, and are now quoted at 83@83¼, or three-eighths of a dollar higher than last week. We still look for an early, certainly a greater disposition shown by home investors to take American securities, on the agreeable solution that all differences between the English and the United States Governments will be amicably arranged."

The Great Montana Gold Story Confirmed.

It will be remembered that we recently published a statement from the Montana *Post* relative to a great gold discovery lately made near Helena, Montana Territory. The account says the new discovery is an immense ledge of diffused auriferous quartz, which glitters before bewildered vision of the beholder."

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LATE NEWS ITEMS.

Rev. Henry W. Ducachet, pastor of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, was found dead in his study on Thursday morning.

The attendance at the Convention of the American Home League, now in session in the hall of the House of Representatives, is large.

A *Herald* Ottawa, Canada, correspondent says: Mr. Galt, who was in Washington the other day on a mission to see what could be done to relieve the financial pressure, has returned to this city, and the result is that he has come to the conclusion that no further danger is to be apprehended from the spread of foreign infections diseases, and consequently the quarantine will not shall be of no force, and cattle may be imported to the same way as before its passage.

The Oath of Office.

In a few days Hon. Joseph Cheap, of Ohio, will introduce a bill to prescribe the oath of office and to repeal the act approved July 24, 1862, on the same subject.

Western Disabled Soldiers' Home.

At some future day, Representative Donnelly will introduce a bill providing for the donation of a certain quantity of land by this Government to the State of Minnesota, to be used by the State as a home for disabled soldiers and sailors of the State, and for their orphans.

Congressional Visit to the President.

Delegations from Kentucky and Missouri, called upon the President to-day, but the interviews were quite briefand private. There has been an unusually large crowd of callers at the White House every day this week.

Wants of the Departments.

It is announced that the Secretary of the Treasury has now given to Congress all the satisfied that the wants of the War Department will not amount to anything like what he was led to suppose they would. Many circumstances have occurred since the estimates were made to warrant the consideration that they can be relieved by the Secretary to be correct. He is very confident that he can get along during the present year without a further loan and without increasing the public debt, and he is of the opinion that next year he will be able to diminish it very much.

Gen. Kilpatrick's Instructions.

The State Department has completed the instructions to Gen. Kilpatrick, Minister to Chili, and has notified him that the Government desires that he should leave there for the United States.

The Ways and Means Committee
Were in session to-day, for the purpose of arranging the business referred to them by the House, and also the matters referred to in Secretary McCulloch's report.

The Naval Committee
had their first meeting to-day. Nothing important done. There are several important measures before them, such as increasing the pay of officers of the navy, locating a site for a naval depot on the Pacific coast, and selecting a place to rendezvous the iron-clads at League Island, or some point in New England. These measures will not be decided until after the holidays.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs
Met to-day and after arranging the days of meeting, during the interval between the recess the Committee would agreeably call in and hear upon the Secretary of State, for the purpose of paying their respects to that functionary.

National Banks and Currency.

Two banks with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars each, have been organized, one at Charleston, South Carolina. Upwards of two millions of currency have been issued to National Banks within the last two days. The total amount now issued is two hundred and twenty-eight million, four hundred thousand.

The Cattle Plague in Great Britain.

The United States Consul at Liverpool, under date of November 20th, sends a dispatch to the Department of State, giving some facts in regard to the cattle plague, now raging in England and Scotland. He says that for a time the district of Liverpool was free from the disease, but the disease has made its appearance and now is as bad in that section as any other portion of the land. Thus far Ireland does not seem to be affected with it. It was supposed that when the cold weather set in the disease would abate. The contrary, however, proved a delusion. Instead of abating it has greatly increased, the deaths by the plague in England and Scotland going on at the rate of from seven hundred to twenty-five hundred per week.

Preparations for the Cholera in Great Britain.

The United States Consul at London, under date of November 20th, informs the Department of State that it is the general opinion of the Government people that the Island of Great Britain will be visited by actual cholera when the spring fairly opens, and the people are preparing to meet it.

The State of Ohio

This evening gave a grand dinner to the 19th Ohio Volunteers, stationed at Alexandria. The regiment is about to go home.

The Supreme Court To-day
Had under consideration the following cases: No. 24—Wm. B. Hamer (now plaintiff, *versus* Board of Supervisors of Iowa; argument concluded—numbers 76 and 78 being Eastern cases, and were the last argued to-day.

Oregon Ratifies the Constitutional Amendment—Election of State Officers in Virginia—Exciting Scene in Court —Davis's Dignified Reply—Andrew Johnson—Committee on Foreign Relations to Visit Secretary Seward—Harbor Improvements, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—The Legislature of Virginia has fixed the 23d inst. for the election of State officers, and it is thought here, from private intelligence received from Richmond, that the election of Hon. John Letcher and the whole of officers who held place under Governor Smith. Governor Pierpoint would regard that as personal, and it would be his duty to resign the office in that event, which would force upon the Government the appointment of a Provisional Governor.

There was a remarkable and exciting scene in the Chief Justice's Court to-day. It was expressed the hope in court that Judge Otin would not argue certain mots to the jury. The Judge replied that he differed from Mr. Bradley, and he would not be insulted, and would not suffer Mr. Bradley to state to the court what the latter had to say. Mr. Bradley—Then you mean I have stated what I know to be untrue, you are a liar and scoundrel. The Court ordered the Marshal to take Mr. B. into custody, and he was removed from the room. Judge Otin ordered a rule to be entered for Mr. B. to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt of court.

Among visitors to the President to-day was Henry Smyth, President of the Central Bank of New York city, who had a protracted interview.

Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, in a speech at the serenade to-night, said: Andrew Johnson was not long in place, but he had already said, which defies the fury of the thunder gust. Intrepid, yet patient, firm but forgiving, with the Union and the Constitution his pillar and his cloud, he seeks to reconcile and bring together again the estranged members of the household, and as all aid him in the good work, and secure its accomplishment.

Secretary Seward to-day received the following telegram, addressed to him by Samuel C. May, Secretary of State of Oregon:

SALEM, Oregon, December 12, 1865.

Oregon ratified the amendment to the Constitution of the United States yesterday. Glory to God!

The House Committee on Foreign Relations propose to call in a body on the Secretary of State.

A bill is to be reported after the adjournment, making appropriations for the usual improvements and repairs of harbors of the sea and lake coasts, and in navigable waters generally. The Committee on Commerce, to-day, will try to report a bill on Monday next, to establish coast surveys in the District of Columbia.

The following dispatch has been sent to the Provisional Governor of Georgia:

WASHINGTON, December 11.

To J. Johnson, Provisional Governor:

The Government is being organized, which will not interfere with the Provisional Governor. You will receive instructions in a few days. Would it be agreeable to you to say you shall be a Senator? I would not issue commissions to members of Congress, but leave the election entirely with the people. You will issue commissions to members of Congress in the manner in which you have been elected. Governor Provisional Governor, and you will be sustained by the Government.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

(Signed.)

A committee has been appointed to wait on Secretary Seward, and learn when it will suit his convenience for the President elect to call on him to be inaugurated. It is understood that he desires to know his real status before taking the office.

Hotel Burned in Madison, Wis.

MADISON, Wis., December 11.—The City Hotel in this city was burned this morning. Loss, $20,000; insured for $10,000.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 14.

SENATE.

Mr. BROWN offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency and rightfulness of providing by law for the adoption of the eight-hour system of labor in all employments within the jurisdiction of Congress, wherever practicable. The resolution lies over informally.

Mr. FOOT, of Vermont, rose to announce the death of his late colleague in the Senate, Hon. Jacob Collamer, and in a speech of thirty minutes' duration, reviewed the life and public services of the late Senator, and spoke, in terms of commendation, of him as a lawyer, a judge, a member of the Vermont Legislature, a member of the House of Representatives, a member of the Peace Congress, and a Senator of the United States. At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Foot offered the usual resolutions of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. HARRIS, of New York, spoke of Mr. Collamer in terms of the warmest eulogy, and in a very eloquent speech, paid a high tribute to the wisdom and judgment of the deceased. The customary resolutions of respect were then passed.

The Senate adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER announced the appointment of Mr. HOLL, of New York, as a member of the committee for the District of Columbia, in place of Mr. DAVIS, declined.

The SPEAKER also announced the following special Committee on Mr. Blaine's resolution relative to reimbursing the loyal States, for money expended in put down the rebellion: Messrs. Blaine, of Maine; Hooper, of Massachusetts; Dawes, of Massachusetts; Boyer, of Pennsylvania; Darling, of New York; Plants, of Ohio; Newell, of New Jersey; Smith, of Kentucky, and Perry, of Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS, of New York, introduced a resolution providing for an adjournment over the Presidents' Day, Thursday next, and also fixing the time from the 20th of December to the 8th of January. The resolution as amended passed.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill appropriating thirty thousand dollars for repairing and furnishing the President's house, and also for the payment of invalid and other pensions, which was passed.

Mr. HENDERSON, of Oregon, offered a resolution declaring that Congress regards the national capital from the west are subjected to any unnecessary inspection or obstruction in passing through the city of Baltimore, and to report to the House at this session of Congress with such legislation as may be necessary and proper to secure the excellent to authorize the Northern Central Railroad Company of Pennsylvania to extend their road to this city.

Mr. JOHN L. THOMAS, of Maryland, objected to the reception of the resolution.

On motion of Mr. COBB it was resolved that the Committee on Enrolled Laws be directed to inquire whether the act of Congress ceded to Virginia is not void, as being in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the United States; and if so, what legislation is proper or necessary to enable the Government to resume the jurisdiction of the ceded territory, and to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, a resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, that justice demands, in case any increase of the standing army shall be authorized by any act, 1866, all new commissions below that of Lieutenant General shall be granted to such meritorious and capable officers as have already here before held commissions in the regular army, and that such as have been partially disabled, and are still capable of performing the duties necessary in peace or war, shall be preferred. Referred by 109 to 3.

House adjourned until Monday.

MUSKETS FOR MAXIMILIAN.

They were Bought by an American—Vessel Carrying them Detained by Our Consul at Havana

NEW YORK, December 14.—The *Post's* Mexican correspondent writes that on the 25th inst. from the Manhattan, one of the steamers of the American and Mexican Steamship Company, there were shipped at Havana, on their last trip, seventeen thousand Springfield muskets, purchased by an American named O'Sullivan, for the use of Maximilian. The United States Consul at Havana refused to permit the vessel to leave the harbor when he found these arms were on board, and the Manhattan was detained twenty-four hours in consequence of his refusal. The arms and ammunition were finally then called upon by Mr. O'Sullivan, and they held an interview with our representative, at the conclusion of which the papers were duly signed and the steamer left the harbor with those implements of war on board.

Meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

NEW YORK, December 14.—The regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held to-day. A special committee was appointed to tender a memorial signed by a large number of merchants, asking for the immediate passage by Congress of the resolution relative to reimbursing the loyal States, for money expended to put down the rebellion, and to assist them in obtaining the passage by Congress of an act to remove duties on coal. The Committee would agreeably call in a body upon the Secretary of State, for the purpose of paying their respects to that functionary.

National Banks and Currency.

Mr. KNIGHT introduced a bill, which was referred to the committee on Commerce, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase six per cent. United States bonds, with which to issue National Banks within the last two days. The total amount now issued is two hundred and twenty-eight million, four hundred thousand.

The Late Pigeon Shoot at Elizabeth.

Mr. VAN WYCK, of New Jersey, introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, to equalize bounties to soldiers, by providing for a uniform bounty of one hundred dollars per month, computing for the whole period of service, and allowing the term of enlistment in cases of honorable discharge by reason of disability incurred in the line of duty, and for the payment of invalid and other pensions, which was passed.

Mr. HENDERSON, of Oregon, offered a resolution declaring that the seat of government of the United States Government is a crime that ought to be punished which was passed unanimously.

Mr. VAN WYCK, of New Jersey, introduced a bill, which was passed, that all the papers in relation to the claim of Gen. Chandler for stores be referred to a select committee of three, to be appointed by the Speaker, with instructions to report at the present session of Congress.

Resolved, That the Joint Committee on Reconstruction be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing by law a uniform rule of naturalization, whose duty it shall be to enforce education of their children and to report a bill to carry out such states as shall fail below a standard to be established by Congress, and to inquire whether such a rule should not be made a condition precedent part of any system of reconstruction.

Mr. JOHN F. LACEY, of Wisconsin, asked leave to introduce the following:

Resolved, that the Committee on Roads and Canals be directed to report a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to cause to be constructed a military road from some point on the Missouri river to the national capital from the west are subjected to any unnecessary inspection or obstruction in passing through the city of Baltimore, and to report to the House at this session of Congress with such legislation as may be necessary and proper to secure the excellent to authorize the Northern Central Railroad Company of Pennsylvania to extend their road to this city.

Mr. JOHN L. THOMAS, of Maryland, objected to the reception of the resolution.

On motion of Mr. COBB it was resolved that the Committee on the Judiciary be directed to inquire whether the act of Congress ceded to Virginia is not void, as being in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the United States; and if so, what legislation is proper or necessary to enable the Government to resume the jurisdiction of the ceded territory, and to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, a resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, that justice demands, in case any increase of the standing army shall be authorized by any act, 1866, all new commissions below that of Lieutenant General shall be granted to such meritorious and capable officers as have already here before held commissions in the regular army, and that such as have been partially disabled, and are still capable of performing the duties necessary in peace or war, shall be preferred. Referred by 109 to 3.

House adjourned until Monday.

THE CHICAGO STOCK-YARDS.

A Great Enterprise—The Cattle and Hog Mart of the World—Thirty Miles of Streets—A First-Class Hotel. Exchange and Bank—Construction of a Canal Contemplated—Advantages and Facilities of the New Yards, &c.

The great Union Stock-yards are now the sensation in Chicago, and sensations being contagious, are the prime topic of conversation in other cities. Not only is Chicago the greatest lumber and grain market in the world, but it is also the greatest live stock market. No enterprise in the history of that city has combined so many corporation capitalists together into one great company, acting as an individual in the business world, as the Union stock-yards. The old yards were six in number and at great distances from each other, creating great inconvenience in the working of the cattle system there. The new yards have been erected by a joint stock company of capitalists and railroad companies, and the capital fixed at $1,000,000. The yards lie just outside of the southern limits of the city, and are about four miles in a direct line from the Court House, or the centre of the city; being perhaps five miles by way of the streets. It is open prairie, no dwellings or places of business being situated anywhere in that locality, and contains three hundred and forty-five acres of ground. The work was commenced last June, and it has been thoroughly drained. The total length of the drains and sewers is about thirty miles. The yard is regularly laid out into streets and alleys in the same manner as a large city. This is the greatest feature of the yards. The central thoroughfare is seventy-five feet wide and one mile long. It is divided into three sections, like a bridge, to facilitate the driving of cattle through it.

Droves passing to the south will take one section, those to the north another, passing on the way, without the slightest inconvenience or stoppage. This street runs from the north to the south, and is paved with Nicholson pavement, the blocks used being the refuse ends of plank, &c., which greatly reduced the expense. There is not a finer or smoother drive in Chicago, and there will be no more sightly one, when the yards are filled with innumerable herds of cattle, and teeming with the activity of buying, selling and transporting stock. Running parallel are other streets, leading to the railroads that surround the yards, and to different stock-yards. These are crossed at right angles by others running east and west, the whole being designated by letters and numbers, as are all the pens and different stalls and yards. There are five hundred inclosures, varying in size, and are so constructed that several can be thrown into one. They vary from 20x25 to 85x120 feet, while others are precisely the size of a car, calculated to hold just a car load of stock.

The yards are provided with six hay barns and six immense corn cribs, convenient to different sections of pens. These barns are 20x150 feet long, one story high, and will contain 500 tons of hay each. They are filled each year on one of the barns. Their average capacity is 200,000 bushels of corn. Nine of the principal railroads of the west find a common centre at these yards. There have been constructed fifteen miles of track, and when completed there will be these roads with the yards direct, besides many switch tracks.

The yards are divided into four separate divisions. Division A belongs to the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, and the Illinois Central. Division B to the Michigan Southern, Michigan Central, Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne, and the Chicago and Great Eastern. Division C accommodates the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Chicago and St. Louis, and Division D the nearly live stock roads. Division D will be ready for use by the Fort Wayne railroad, which, since its consolidation with the Chicago and Galena Railroad, requires considerable room for its live stock trade.

The yard is supplied with water from the river, which is two feet above the level of the prairie where the pens are erected. Tanks holding 22,000 gallons are kept constantly supplied, and the water is distributed to every pen through over six miles of pipe. Wells for cattle are also supplied with water by steam power, necessary for that branch of the trade.

Another feature of interest is the ground in the inventive brains of the officers of the yards, which contrivals the whose that has been done, such as the building of a canal, which is designed to cut a canal from the south branch of the river to the cattle yards, of a sufficient capacity to float vessels, and to be used as a dock. It will be within a short distance of where the canal would enter it, and the remainder could easily be excavated. Vessels can then come directly in front of the yards, and depart thence with their freight.

The yards are provided with half a dozen of Richmanks and Gale's scales for weighing cattle. Two commodious hotels, the Exchange House, bank and exchange buildings have been erected, and contain between three and four hundred separate rooms in all, and the working arrangement is pronounced unexceptionable. All the above buildings are of brick, and are so placed, and the concern may be set down as "first-class." Its cost was $10,000.

Before the completion of the yards, the company will soon erect on the grounds a number of cottages for the use of the men permanently employed about the premises. These buildings will be uniform in size, and finished in the neatest manner. The yards will be the embellishing of the grounds as to the ease and comfort of the inmates. They will be provided each with a well of water, and a hydrant for use in case of fire, which the lessee can make use of for either a vegetable garden, or flowers. The wisdom of this plan will be apparent to all.

Up to the present time there has been expended in the yards, buildings, &c., about $1,000,000, and a more will be required to complete the work. Since ground was broken for the undertaking, July 1st, 1865, there have been constructed and run daily between the yards and the city, conveying lumber, brick and other material to the yards, 1,000 cars per day, and a total of more than over 1,000,000 feet of lumber have been used in the fencing and pens. The estimation has not been made of the amount of brick, stone, iron, etc., used, but it must have been very large. The yards are the largest in the world, and a rapidly never before equ

The Daily Commercial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on matters of public interest is solicited and will be thankfully received from our friends in all parts of the country. Name and address required as an indispensable canon. We are especially desirous to be the discovery and production of useful facts, and whatever intelligence in general will be acceptable and beneficial. Events of local interest, mechanical and agricultural results, inventions and improvements of every description, clearly and briefly described, are solicited. To secure attention, communications should be brief and entirely reliable, and should be sent as promptly as possible.

Letters concerning the business department of the newspaper or printing office should be addressed to the Business Manager. Communications designed for the paper should be addressed to the Editor.

CONGRESS AND BUSINESS.

By sending to the Select Committee the question of reconstruction, Congress has gained time for the other momentous questions which will come up for action. Not the least important are our foreign relations. The questions growing out of our Finances will tax the wisdom of Congress, and require an early consideration,—especially whatever relates to revenue and duties. While the Select Committee of Fifteen are at work inquiring into the condition of the South, we trust that Congress will devote itself to this and kindred subjects. Reconstruction will improve rather by waiting,—but the other business will not. While there is nothing critical in our affairs, the suggestions of experience call for early attention and will consume much time. The Commission appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to gather data with reference to a revision of our revenue system, it is understood, will make a preliminary report at an early day. Although no very important changes are expected, nevertheless, many important suggestions, looking to a revision of the present laws, will be embodied in the report, which will open up a fruitful field for the display of the best wisdom of Congress.

While we do not expect much will be done till the Holidays are over, we regard it as a fortunate circumstance that business is not likely to be blocked at the outset with an entanglement on reconstruction.

PUBLIC MORALS.

It is a question of more than mere speculative interest, whether the public morals of the country are more depraved than in former periods of our history as a people. If it be so, it affords a just occasion for the most serious consideration not only of our citizens, but also of our wisest statesmen. If there has been an actual deterioration, it cannot be without some degree of danger to the civil institutions with which the functions and responsibilities of statesmen are closely connected. No country blessed with a high degree of civilization has ever exonerated its civil functionaries from attention to this subject and left it exclusively to professed ethical and religious teachers.

It can hardly be doubted that there is an impression on the popular mind, more or less extensively, that the tone of public morals is less sound and safe than it was some years ago. Crimes of an atrocious character are said to be more frequent, speculations and frauds in business more common, and the ordinary acts of lawlessness against persons and property greatly multiplied in number. It would be surprising to a degree not to be regretted, if such were not the case, while our population has been so rapidly and largely increased. But the number of offenses must be taken in connection with the number of people. An argument from individual facts, in a case like this, does not hold good in unlimited generalization. A given number of crimes that would show fearfully against the morals of a thousand people might be a small speck comparatively on the fair fame of a million. The numerical increase of our population is not the only consideration that claims influence on our estimate of the public morals of the country. This increase embraces a large immigration, which, while it furnishes the United States with a vast number of valuable citizens, throws also on our shores an appreciable element which is admittedly far below the average of moral integrity and virtue. And it is admitted, also, or capable of easy proof, that a very large proportion of the crime and moral depravity that appear on court records belongs to this class.

We believe that, while offenses against the laws are more numerous than they previously were, the great mass of our population, taking cities and country into the account, is as true to the principles of right and the claims of law as they ever were. Taking the native, middle classes of society, which in every country give tone to public morals, whether good or bad, we maintain it as an article of pleasant and cheering conviction, that the public morals of our country are as high on the true scale as they ever were, and higher than in any other country on this planet.

Not denying the multiplicity of crimes nor abating anything from the horror which they excite in every virtuous mind, we have other ways of accounting for the sensational conspicuity which they have, and ways more creditable to the country, than to ascribe them to a general depravation.

Sectional and party animosity has applied its magnifying glasses to detect and its powers of exaggeration to detail crimes occurring in the several sections of the country. Crimes South and crimes North by this process have been exhibited as the mere accidental outcrops of deep, pervading moral corruption in entire communities. The press, too, is accustomed to repeat and re-echo such items of intelligence individually and mustered from all quarters into groups till they ring through the whole land, and one deed of horror serves to give a sensational thrill to the normal dullness of a thousand papers and ten thousand neighborhoods. And, further, the moral condition of cities naturally attracts more attention and occasions more remark than that of country places. The world over, cities embody more active vice, and ours, for reasons referred to, have their larger share of bad population.

We do not imagine, however, that our country has attained to sinless perfection or millennial purity. Horrid deeds are committed, fraud is practiced, crimes of base passion are planned and perpetrated, trusts are deliberately violated. Yet, neither from reliable statistics, nor from any other sources of credible information, have we seen evidence of a breaking up of the foundation of sound morals in the principles, esteem and habits of the American people. Not only has there not been deterioration, but with the advance of intelligence and christian principles, there has been improvement. There is room, no doubt, for further progress, but the depreciation of moral worth and the voluntary abandonment of character are not promising means for securing it.

NOMINATIONS FOR CITY OFFICERS.

To-morrow afternoon between the hours of three and seven o'clock, the Union Republican voters of the city will meet under the call of the Union City Executive Committee, at their respective places of voting, and vote by ballot for candidates for Mayor, Controller and Treasurer, to be voted for on the first Tuesday of January next. This is a new system of making nominations in this city, and will be found much more satisfactory to the people than the delegate system. Heretofore the nominations for city officers have been made by a caucus of a few individuals, but by the mode to be inaugurated to-morrow afternoon the people will meet in caucus and place in nomination such men as a majority shall openly prefer. The new system secures to all the voters of the party a fair and untrammeled expression of their preferences for candidates, and is designed to work a thorough reform of the abuses which hitherto have caused many to stand aloof from the primary meetings.

At the primary election to-morrow the Judges and Inspectors elected at the last municipal election will act as officers, except in the Third Ward, where a Judge and one Inspector will be chosen before the poll is open. At the close of the polls, the votes will be counted and a certificate setting forth the number polled by each candidate, will be signed by the officers of the election, and presented to the Judges of the several Boards, who will meet on Monday, in the Common Council chamber, and determine who are the successful candidates.

For the office of Mayor there are five candidates, all of whom have pledged themselves to abide by the decision of the Union voters to-morrow. Hon. JAMES LOWRY, the present Mayor, is a candidate for re-nomination. W. C. MCCARDY, Esq., is a second time a candidate for nomination. JAMES DONALDSON, Esq., Alderman of the Fourth Ward; Capt. SAMUEL KILGORE, late of the 155th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and Capt. WM. MAYS, of the 101st Pennsylvania Volunteers, are also candidates. All of these gentlemen will receive a warm and active support from their friends.

For the office of City Controller there are two candidates—JOHN MCCARGO, Esq., present incumbent, and SAMUEL ALLISON, clerk in the City Treasurer's office.

There is no opposition to the present City Treasurer, WM. EICHBAUM, Esq., who has been a faithful officer.

THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN.

The prompt passage, with Mr. STEVENS's concurrence, through the House, of the reconstruction resolution, as it was amended and passed by the Senate, is gratifying evidence of Congressional wisdom and the strength of public sentiment. This action of Congress is more important and reaches farther, probably, than will be perceived at a casual glance. Congress has by it taken possession of the whole question of reconstruction, and although it can at any time annul any part of the proceedings and take a new position, it stands pledged to await the action of the select committee of fifteen, which is to inquire into and report at any time, by bill or otherwise, whether any of the States lately in rebellion are entitled to seats in Congress. Thus is confided to this committee, virtually, the whole question; and it is understood that the committee will go over the entire field, with the view of ascertaining the fitness of the Southern States to resume their former position and responsibilities. The committee (which, at the present writing, has not been appointed,) may be able to report speedily on certain States, and it is not improbable that particular members will be admitted at an early day. But considerable time will no doubt be consumed before the committee completes its labors. Charged as it is "to inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America," the field before the committee is vast and fertile. It is understood that the committee will proceed to those States and obtain light from whatever source it can be obtained, with the view of determining the actual "condition" and fitness of the South to be represented in Congress, and for restoration to its old relations under the Government. With this view, it is said, the committee will set out prepared to take testimony and view things with their own eyes, and hear things with their own ears. Evidently we have started out on a new reconstruction campaign.

COMPENSATIONS.—The disappointment of the members elected to Congress from the Southern States may be mortifying, but their delay will be attended with some compensations. Some of the business that would be very unpleasant to them to witness will be disposed of. They will be saved from the temptation to say things that would do them no credit and their constituents no good. Congress has changed somewhat in its manners since their predecessors left it, four years ago, and a little time for observation will make them better acquainted with the new style, which is quite different from that which prevailed under the slavery and plantation regime.

FISH-BREEDING.—The spread of the cattle plague in England and the consequent high and increasing price of butcher's meat has made the care and culture of fish an object of greater interest in that country. We have recommended it several times to the readers of the COMMERCIAL. Although the cattle disease should not invade our country and decimate our herds, yet the recommendation holds good. The pleasure, the luxury and the profit of a fish preserve on a farm should be a sufficient incentive, where the means of forming it are possessed, as they are wherever a good flowing spring of water gushes from the hill side.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.—One person lately sent to the Treasury fifteen dollars toward paying the national debt. Another, a poor beggar, sent one cent for the same purpose. This reminds us of a man who gave a five pound note towards extinguishing the debt of England, which, it was said, would not pay the interest while the officer receiving it would say, thank you, sir. And it reminds us also of a person in other times, who gave two mites to a treasury, of which a true calculator remarked, "She hath cast in more than they all." In such matters, motives have a weight and value.

FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETIES.—There is no likelihood that the efforts in behalf o the freedmen will exceed the necessities of their condition. There is enough for all to do. But this very consideration carries with it the suggestion that the efforts should be made with a single eye to their efficiency. It may be doubted whether the multiplications of isolated and unconnected enterprizes will accomplish as much good and with as much economy as a union of agencies and means under a common administration.

EXCITEMENT IN PETROLEUM.—The steamer's news has produced considerable excitement in the petroleum market, and prices have advanced three cents a gallon for crude, and five cents for refined. Those who had stocks on hand were fortunate. The large receipts at this point for the last two weeks were principally to fill contracts, so that the stock on hand was not large.

NATURAL CONJUNCTION.—A dispatch from Yreka, California, gives two items thus: "An order of the Fenian Brotherhood was formed here last night." "A great storm is prevailing." These items might be dispatched from New York as well, or from several other places, the conjunction is so natural.

BEAUREGARD has written a letter, in which he says: "At one time, in order to escape the hatred of the Northern fanatics, I thought of seeking a refuge in Brazil, but the generous sentiments expressed by President Johnson toward the Southern States have persuaded me, together with a great many other Confederate officers and soldiers, to remain in Louisiana. I prefer to live here, poor and forgotten, than to be endowed with honor and riches in a foreign country."

The little Creole had better not rely too much on what he calls "the generous sentiments expressed by President Johnson," but go to Brazil. Generous sentiments contemplate reciprocal action towards those on whom they are expressed. In this case the President has failed to let that somewhat change the ground on which the rebel general seems to think he stands.

THE STATE TREASURY.—An exhibit of the condition of the State finances for the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1865, shows an available balance in the treasury of $2,373,686 14—an unusually large balance at the close of a fiscal year. In addition to this, the State has a judgment against Philadelphia for $150,000 of unpaid taxes, and the State has a claim on the National Government of $800,000, paid to militia called out by the President in 1863. If these claims were paid into the treasury, the balance would be more than three millions and a half. This is a very flattering exhibit of the financial condition of the State.

THE Union State Committee, which met recently in Philadelphia, and adopted a memorial to Congress suggesting amendments to the Constitution, to be ratified before the admission of the late rebel States, adjourned without fixing a day for the next Union State Convention. The Committee will meet in Harrisburg in January, and will call a convention to be held in April or May.

ILLNESS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MEREDITH.—Attorney General Meredith, of this State, has been quite ill lately at his residence in Philadelphia, but is better. During his illness Attorney General Etter is attending to the legal interests of the State, and has successfully conducted some heavy suits on behalf of the Commonwealth.

THE PURITAN.—It has been decided to place but one turret on this iron-clad instead of two as originally intended, and to place in this turret two twenty inch smooth bore guns. These guns will measure about 20 feet in length, maximum diameter 61 inches, and weighing each 19,000 pounds. We can scarcely credit that such enormous pieces of ordnance can be used on ship-board; but five years ago who dreamed of a 15-inch gun, and yet they are easily handled and of great service. The public must not expect that the Puritan will make an excursion trip to Europe under the Italian flag of peace. These vessels are adapted solely for harbor defense, and in their place cannot be equalled, and for a few years will fill the rather troublesome role to open our port doors for an *entree* when barred by such crafts as the Puritan with her two 20-inch guns.

COLD GRAPERY.—Charlton, in his Grape Growers' Guide, recommends covering the canes for winter protection, with the following mixture, which will effectually destroy larvæ and the eggs of insects:

Whale oil soap, 1 lb.; sulphur, 1 lbs.; tobacco, ½ lb.; powdered nux vomica, 1 oz. Pour over these ingredients of boiling water and stir well together, and apply with a paint brush. To lay the vine down, tie it to the wire at about two feet from the ground; then bend the canes from above this point to a horizontal position, cover about three inches thick with sod and the tie on, or put up boards in front of the vines and cover with forest leaves. Keep the house cool by opening ventilators on mild days, close at night, and on cloudy and severe days.

THE ALLEGED RUSSELL DISPATCH.—There is not a word of truth in the report that the State Department has received advices which warrant the belief that Russell has changed his position on the question of their claims. The whole subject remains precisely as it did—open for England to offer an amicable adjustment whenever she shall feel in the humor to do so.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Colt's armory in Hartford is to be rebuilt immediately. Its length will be twelve hundred feet.

To put an end to the continual delays on railways, the council of State in Switzerland has just resolved to impose the following fines: A delay from a quarter to half an hour, fifty francs; from a half to one hour, one hundred francs; from an hour to an hour and a half, three hundres francs; more than an hour and a half, five hundred francs.

Jay Cooke & Co.'s new banking house at Philadelphia is nearly completed. The spirit of enterprise, the brain of skill and the hand of toil are fast revealing their issue. In a short time this model banking house will be occupied by its future tenants, the firm so closely identified with the financial operations of the country, and with whom a familiarity and acquaintance extends as far as five-twenties have traveled, or seven-thirties wended their way.

In 1845 the quantity of iron produced in Scotland was 475,000 tons; that production gradually increased, till in 1864 it reached 950,000 tons. For the same year, the total production in Great Britain, inclusive of Wales, was no less than 5,000,000 tons.

The exports of railway iron to British India have made a considerable stride this year, having amounted to 68,386 tons, against 35,931 tons in the corresponding period in 1864, and 60,624 tons in the corresponding period of 1863.

The project of a railroad line between New York and Washington, by which Philadelphia shall be left out by the wayside, is again revived in Congress. It is essentially a speculation and nothing else, and if Congress meddles with it at all, it should be distinctly made known that such is its character. During the war the persons who are pushing the project asked Congress to interfere on the ground of military necessity. Now, that such a pretext no longer is available, they are taking other grounds. The peculiarity of the air-line" railroad project thus far is, that all the routes are more or less direct than the present route between Washington and New York. We observe that one link in one of these zigzag air-lines has just been surveyed from a point on the Gettysburg Railroad, near New Oxford, to Yorkville, York county, Pa.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

The declaration of Benito Juarez, of Mexico, that he is President of the Republic for the unlimited period which must elapse "until another popular election can be held," is undoubtedly a matter of necessity, under the Mexican constitution, in case there could be no election, a successor was designated, who, if he had been in Mexico, might have succeeded to the Presidency. This gentleman, who is the General Gonzales De Ortiga, is, or has been in the United States, and had he been in Mexico on the 1st of December, he might have taken possession of the Presidential office. Juarez had no desire to hold it, and it was expected that Ortega would be upon the spot in time.

From the Ohio Agricultural Reports for 1864, just received, we have prepared the following statement of the number and value of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs in the counties of Northern Ohio:

Total number of horses	675,641
Total number of cattle	1,139,238
Total number of sheep	1,622,139
Total number of hogs	1,455,895
Total number of mules	2,958
Value [illegible] of horses	$42,570,000
Valuation of cattle	21,982,991
Valuation of sheep	3,720,276
Valuation of hogs	9,455,000
Valuation of mules	118,111

The Chicago *Times* recently contained a well-prepared article concerning the wages paid in a large number of the leading occupations, and the cost of living, as compared with the wages paid in the same occupations and cost of living in 1860, by which it appears that while wages in several occupations have more than kept pace with the increased cost of the necessaries of life, in most occupations they have fallen behind. It is probable that the profits of employers in most occupations will be found to have fallen off in something like the same proportion. The war has greatly diminished the production of this country in proportion to its consumption, and this, of course, has caused high prices. Each class of the community has endeavored to make its earnings as great in proportion to their remuneration before the war, as a general thing, with the same measure of success.

The Canadian government offers as an exchange for the privilege of selling their products in our markets, under the present reciprocity treaty, to enlarge and deepen the Welland and the Lawrence Canal so as to admit vessels drawing from 12 to 14 feet of water, thus securing transportation from Chicago to the Atlantic, and giving free navigation to vessels of our own and Canadian vessels, free of duty. If objection is made to this proposition, the Canadian authorities propose that this object shall be accomplished by concurrent legislation between the two countries.

The Secretary of the Treasury has taken the initiatory steps towards solving the mystery and developing the National Bank Note and Government development indicating that that organization prepared some of the plates of the late confederate notes.

PERSONAL.

—Mr. Jeremiah A. Johnson, of Messachusetts United States Consul at Beirut, distributed a hundred copies of President Lincoln's biography entitled "The Pioneer Boy," all over Syria and Palestine, and proposes to translate it into Arabic, while it will be simultaneously translated into modern Greek by the Rev. G. Constantine, an Athenian by birth, and American missionary in that city.

—Mr. J. P. Benjamin claims to be a naturalized citizen of England on the ground that his grandfather was a British subject, and that, according to the law of England, from his humblest beginnings, risen to a power in his state and party.

—The move of H. J. Raymond, in the House to get the case of Tennessee placed first in the list to be considered by a joint committee, is said by the friends of Mr. Raymond to have been done at the personal request of President Johnson.

—Major General Simon B. Buckner, of Kentucky, is now associate editor of the New Orleans *Crescent*, and Major General Frank Gardner, who commanded at Port Hudson, is a local reporter under him.

STATE ITEMS.

Rev. Edward W. Appleton, formerly rector of St. John's Free Church, Lancaster, having resigned his pastoral charge on account of ill health, left on the 1st inst. for Europe, his congregation presented him a few days since with a purse containing $1,000.

The Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia, by virtue of the munificence of their present building, as well as of their prosperity, have resolved to erect a new library building in a central location. A resolution has been adopted by the Library Committee of Philadelphia that a sum of two hundred thousand dollars be raised by donation and by the sale of stock at ten dollars per share. Books of subscription are now open.

The project of the business men of Philadelphia to establish direct steam communication with the seaboard cities of the south is meeting with great favor. Already more than one half of the required stock has been subscribed. It is proposed to form a stock company under the charter of the Coastwise Steamship Company, with a capital of not less than six hundred thousand dollars, in shares of two hundred and fifty dollars; no subscriptions to which shall be binding until six hundred thousand dollars be subscribed.

A vessel arrived at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, having on board twenty-two firkins and six tubs of butter from Dorchester, New Brunswick.

The Juniata Manufacturing Company has been organized by the election of the following officers: President—Martin Bell. Directors—Martin Bell, Henry L. Patterson, Hugh McNeal, Samuel Isett, J. King McLanahan, John P. Laird, Daniel McLeod, R. McLaughlin and D. B. Cobb. Treasurer—R. B. Johnston. Secretary—J. Hollinger. The capital of the company is $200,000, nearly all of which has been subscribed. It is the intention of the company to at once commence the construction of a large rolling mill and nail factory, on the site of the mill burned down last spring in Hollidaysburg. The mill will be of very large capacity, and will give employment to a large number of hands. It is expected to be in operation some time next summer.

A fire in Philadelphia, on Tuesday morning, destroyed the boiler fitting manufactory of H. W. Miller, the shop of John Gabell, wood turner, the cotton spinning mill of Greaves & Platt, and two other small shops. Total loss, $6,000.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF CANNON.

Important American Improvements in Artillery—Professor Treadwell's Invention—The Principles have been Adopted by the English Armstrong Gun First Developed in the United States—The Coiled Ring and Hooped Gun System—What Constitutes an Improvement in Fire Arms, &c., &c., &c.

In the year 1796 the Count Rumford presented to the American Academy of Artsand Sciences the sum of five thousand dollars in three per cent. United States stock, the interest of which was to be applied every second year as a premium to the author of the most important discovery, or useful improvement, made and published in any part of America, "on heat or light." But the Academy obtained from the Massachusetts Legislature, and Supreme Court, a modification of the terms of the trust, reserving, however, always a sufficient portion of the income to procure a gold and silver medal of the value of three hundred dollars, to be given to the author of any discovery, of the character described by the Count Rumford. These premiums have been donated, viz: In 1839 to Dr. Hare, for the "compound blow-pipe," in 1862 to Captain Ericsson, for the "caloric engine," and in 1865 to Professor Daniel Treadwell, for "improvements in the management of heat, made and put in practice by him in constructing cannon of a series of coiled rings." In his earliest communication, "a pamphlet published in the year 1845,—Mr. Treadwell seems to think that the appropriateness of the term "useful," as applied to an improvement in implements of destruction, may be questioned, but as every invention that may be justly yielded and taken, it need require, for the preservation of those that are. And so nations must always remain among their greatest benefactors those whose inventions increase their strength and defense in war. And certainly the genius who, by his inventive genius, revolutionize the art of war, excel a most powerful and enduring influence upon the fate of empires, the course of history, and the progress of civilization.

Within the last fifteen years, we have witnessed a change in the means of attack and defense, greater than any made in the two hundred years previous, a change involving a complete revolution in tactics, both on land and on sea.

The improvement in fire-arms, both great and small, is in their increased range and precision. Where the effective range of a musket bullet was extended from 200 yards to 1,000 yards, it became imperatively necessary that ordnance should be improved in the same ratio, or it would be useless, as gunners and horses would be picked off by small arms long before they could effectively reach the enemy. This improvement in guns of great calibres has been made, with consequences the importance of which, present and prospective, cannot be overestimated.

But the point which we have to consider is, that this increased range and precision are entirely dependent on the augmented strength of the guns. The weakness of the gun is the only thing that imposes a limit to the range short of the absolute strength of the explosive material used. It is the strength of the gun which not only gives the range, but makes rifling possible, with projectiles and all the advantages of the elongated shot. All inventions relating to the different modes of rifling, the form of the projectile, and the devices for breech-loading are necessarily subordinate to the question of strength, with this sufficient, those less essential problems, to be rapidly determined by the ingenuity of many inventors.

The most effective guns of the present day embody new principles of strength, and it is in the principles of construction which have made them strong, that Professor Treadwell has achieved such renown. The coil system was successfully applied by him in 1842, the gist of the invention consisting in coiling the gun iron that the fibres of the material shall be directed around the axis of the calibre. The cannon was all hand-forged, and the profits of employers, welded together endwise; each ring was made of bars wrought into hoops, and these hoops, by winding a ribbon upon a block, and, being welded and shaped in dies, were joined endwise when in a red heat, and then bored out and afterwards pressed together in a mould by a hydrostatic press of one thousand tons' force. "But," says the Professor, "in the finishing stage of the manufacture that the softness of the wrought iron was a serious defect, for all those made afterwards with a lining of steel, the wrought iron bars being wound upon a previously turned steel ring."

The soundness of this principle of construction has been fully confirmed in England by Sir William Armstrong, who constructs his own gun on the "with a steel tube surrounded with coiled wrought iron," as familiar in being mainly composed of tubes, or pipes, of flattish bars of iron coiled spirally long bars of iron with tubes and welding the flat edges, as in the case of gun barrels." The difficulties to be overcome in making such a gun, as Professor Treadwell has invented, are well described in the "hooped gun" system, consisting of rings of wrought iron in the shape of tubes or cylinders. It is for overcoming these difficulties that this tube is hooped, and by the simplest of the means and appliances by which this difficult mechanical achievement was effected in the former case, are applied.

The invention of the *hooped* gun is not always clearly distinguished, and it may be as well put with the subject, from the guns formed of coiled rings. But a brief statement will bring into view distinctly the principle of strength here introduced.

If an elastic hollow cylinder be subjected to internal fluid pressure, the particles or molecular layers of the material composing it, counting from within outwards, will be unequally distributed, and the resistance of that of the outer layer will be less than that of any layer nearer the axis. And if the walls of the cylinder are thick, and the internal pressure surpasses the tensile of strength of the material, the inner layer will burst, and the outer one has been notably strained. Hence the tensile strength of a square inch bar of the material is taken as the measure of the strength of the cylinder can bear, who constructed as guns by the coiled ring system, and the principle of improvement now under consideration. The improvement does away with this limit, and enables us to go indefinitely beyond it.

This is accomplished by so constructing the gun that the inner layers are compressed by the outer, strictly by mechanical means, and not resisted by the outer layers, which must be distended enough to allow the internal compressed portion to attain its normal strength, before the internal portion which is the first to break, by the explosive force is subjected to any strain at all. It will be perceived that if this principle could be rigorously applied, a cannon could be made so that it would be impossible to burst it by any pressure, every fibre, from the internal to the external surface, would be at that instant equally strained, each portion bearing its full share of resistance to fracture. The whole resistance would be proportional to the area of fracture.

This was supposed to be the case in common cylinders, and was the error which was pointed out by Barlow, and also by Lamé and Clapeyron. And it was this erroneous supposition that led Count Rumford to attach to the powder gun, hundred thousand dollars, in shares of two hundred and fifty dollars; no subscriptions to which shall be binding until six hundred thousand dollars be subscribed.

Perceiving that the body of a hooped gun, if made of unmalleable cast-iron, compressed by a soft wrought-iron hoop, must give way by the fracture of the cast-iron before the hoop can approach the limit of its strength, Professor Treadwell, in fact, a principal cause of the failure of so great a part of the large guns of Sebastopol and Portsmouth, and attempted to attain with effect the end sought for by hooping a cast-iron gun, it is necessary to harden the wrought-iron hoop by cold hammering and severe stretching before placing it upon the gun body. He computes, that by this simple means, a bronzed gun may be made *twice as strong* as those which have been constructed by Blake and Parrott, the materials being in both cases the same.

So completely do these three improvements meet the difficulties of the case, that all other inventors who claim a share in the great gun of the nineteenth century were lost, the gun could be rendered nothing excepted, from Mr. Treadwell's papers alone.

PRAYING FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY.—It will be remembered that General Thomas, some time since, issued a general order closing several of the Episcopal churches in Alabama for not praying for the President of the United States and all in authority. Bishop Wilmer argued that the order was a violation of the constitution of the church South had changed the liturgy so as to make it read the "President of the Confederate" instead of the United States, he had no authority to change it back. General Thomas, however, did not give way, but stood on this light, and accordingly ordered the ministers to shut up shop, which they proceeded to do.

Bishop Quintard, of the diocese of Mississippi, which State is likewise in General Thomas's department, has recently drawn his attention to the usual praying for "the President and all in authority." He further expresses the opinion that all the Episcopal churches will immediately return to the church North, each one being left to act of its own free will.

THE STAGE AND THE PULPIT.—The warfare between the churches and the pulpit inaugurated at Chicago some time ago, has extended itself into distant parts of the country. We now have from Troy, New York, an interesting account of the "situation" in that city. The Rev. Dr. Sheldon, of the Baptist Church, preached a violent sermon against theatres and theatre-goers generally. Last Sunday night the Griswold Opera House was filled to repletion by a highly intelligent audience to listen to Mr. Gilbert Howard, an actor, make a reply to the reverend gentleman's arguments. At the conclusion of the address, a collection was taken up for the benefit of Mrs. Gilbert, the wife of another actor, who lost a limb in the war, followed in a forcible speech, also E. T. Stetson, the financial agent. All fear minister the novel meeting broke up in the best order.

It is announced that fully one-half of the proposed stock of the Philadelphia and Southern Steamship Line has been subscribed. Says the *Gazette*: "The several committees meet regularly, and the prospects for filling the remaining half grow more encouraging daily. The preliminary arrangements set down on the general schedule to committees which have reported reach nearly $200,000. These reports are from only subscribed of the total number of the committees which have not reported net as vigorously nor successfully as those which have reported, one million dollars can be reckoned on as a certainty.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

STORE TO RENT

And Fixtures for Sale.

Also Lease two years and three months to run—situated on St. Clair street, No. 17. For further particulars inquire of J. FINK & BROTHERS.
No. 88 Market street.
dec15-6t

COAL FLATS FOR SALE.

Five new Coal Flats,

8 feet long, 14 feet wide, 35 inches deep, for sale by
JOHN C. COUCH,
Inquire at Saw Mill, Lawrenceville, or address Box 1528 Pittsburgh Postoffice.
dec15-6t

PYRITIES.

The Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company will buy
PYRITIES OR SULPHURET OF IRON,
At a good price.
PENNA SALT MANUF. CO.,
Office corner Pitt st. and [illegible] Way
dec14-3m

DESIRABLE RESIDENCE IN ALLEGHENY CITY FOR SALE.

I have for sale, up to January 1st, 1866, if not sooner disposed of, a fine double frame, with a large lot. For particulars inquire of JACOB GLOSSER,
115 Penna street.

BEANS—

100 Barrels Prime Navy,

In store and for sale by
MILLER & RICKETSON,
corner Liberty and Irwin streets.
dec15

LARD.

10 Kegs No. 1 Lard,

On consignment, and for sale by
MILLER & RICKETSON,
corner Liberty and Irwin streets.
dec15

POTATOES.

EARLY GOODRICH, MONITOR AND CUSCO POTATOES.

We have received from A. W. HARRISON, who has made the growing of new and reliable varieties FOR SEED a subject of special culture and care, a good supply of the above Potatoes.
Persons wishing to purchase would do well to engage them early, as the demand promises to be very great.

J. KNOX.

No. 29 FIFTH STREET.
dec15 3t&d1w

EPISCOPAL

Sabbath School Books,

A SELECT ASSORTMENT.

Just received by
DAVIS, CLARKE & CO.,
93 Wood street.
dec15

HORTICULTURAL.

We receive subscriptions, at Publishers' Prices, for the
AGRICULTURIST,
HORTICULTURIST,
GARDENER'S MONTHLY,
COUNTRY GENTLEMAN,
OHIO FARMER,
RURAL NEW YORKER,
And all other Horticultural and Agricultural Papers in the country.
J. KNOX,
No. 29 FIFTH STREET.
dec15 3t&d1w

BOOKS!!

1865. HOLIDAYS. 1865.

DAVIS, CLARKE & CO.,

Offer all the new books of the season, together with the standard authors in fine bindings. Beautiful editions of
IRVING
PRESCOTT
TENNYSON,
WAVERLEY NOVELS,
SHAKSPEARE,
LONGFELLOW,
BURNS,
WHITTIER,
HOUGHTON,
EDGAR A. POE,
GOLDSMITH,
LAMB,
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FAMILY BIBLES,
POCKET BIBLES,
PRAYER BOOKS,
HYMN BOOKS, in rich Morocco, calf and velvet bindings.
JUVENILE AND TOY BOOKS
in the greatest variety, including in this department some choice Engravings and Chromos.
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.
A most attractive stock and very price, with the CELEBRATED HINGE BACK, in antique styles.
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARIES
in fine holiday binding.

FANCY GOODS

Comprising
WRITING DESKS,
In Rosewood, Walnut, Papier Maché and Leather.
BEAD PURSES, WORK BOXES AND TRANSPARENCIES in rustic Frames.
An entire stock of Papier Maché Goods, DRESSING BOXES, WORK BOXES,
HANDKERCHIEF BOXES,
GLOVE BOXES, &c.,
Inlaid in Velvet Satin and Scotch plaid patterns.
PURSES,
CARD CASES,
IVORY TABLETS.
PAPER KNIVES,
ROSEWOOD INK STANDS,
LADIES' COMPANIONS,
And many other Fancy Articles.
Our customers will find it much to our pleasant to call and inspect our stock before the pressure immediately preceding Christmas.

DAVIS, CLARKE & CO.,

93 Wood street.
dec15-3w

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
PITTSBURGH, Pa., December 15, 1865.

GOVERNMENT

Sale of Stores.

Will be sold at Public Sale, to the highest bidder, at the Government Store House, on Penn street, opposite the Pittsburgh Railroad Depot, in this city, on THURSDAY, December 21st, 1865, at 11 o'clock, A. M., the following Quartermaster's Stores, viz:
52 Heating Stoves.
16 Cooking Stoves.
2 Sheet Iron Hangers.
80 Joints Stovepipe.
5 Desks.
9 Field Desks.
9 Tables.
1 Paper Clasp.
1 Copying Polygraphic Ware.
Toilet Sets.
Puff Boxes, French,
Florida Water,
Farina Cologne,
Lavender Salts,
Gold Hair Powder,
Silver Hair Powder,
Also, a large stock of Drugs, Medicines, Medicinal Liquors, Perfumery, Toilet Articles, Indian Relics, &c.
McCLARIN, FLEMING & HANNAN,
Successors to N. McClarran & Co.,
dec12 85 Market street, cor. Diamond near Fifth.

PURE NORTH CAROLINA TAR.

Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
TURPENTINE AND ROSIN,
Turpentine and Rosin,
Turpentine and Rosin,
Turpentine and Rosin,
For the Holidays.
SODA ASH AND POTASH.
Soda Ash and Potash,
All of the very lowest rates, cheap at
FLEMINGS Drug and Patent Medicine Depot.
No. 84 Market street, No. 84 Market street,
Corner of the Diamond, near Fourth.
Remember the place.
dec14-3t

HOLIDAY GOODS.

BRONZE LAMPS,
GILT LAMPS,
BOHEMIAN LAMPS,
STUDENT LAMPS,
FRENCH LAMPS,
For the Holiday's, at
WELDON & KELLY'S,
164 Wood Street, near Sixth.
dec15

J. W. ARROTT'S

General Insurance Agency,

Fire, Life, Marine and Accident.

OFFICE:
NO. 37 FIFTH STREET,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Continental Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over $1,500,000
Hartford Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 1,500,000
Hartford Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 800,000
Home Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 600,000
Home Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 600,000
Morris Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 600,000
New England Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 250,000
Manhattan Insurance Co. (Fire) assets over 250,000
New York Life Insurance Co. assets over 5,000,000
New York Accidental Insurance Co. assets over 250,000

The principal citizens and merchants are insured in those Companies, which are strictly first class, and worthy the confidence and patronage of the community. Insurance granted at fair rates, and all losses promptly adjusted and paid.

J. W. ARROTT, Agent,
No. 37 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
dec14-3m

NEW YORK

Accidental Insurance Co.,

CASH CAPITAL.....$250,000.
INSURES AGAINST ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS
DEATH AND COMPENSATION,
By this policy the insured secures the amount for which he insures, to his family in the event of death; and in case of personal injury the amount stipulated, until he is able to attend to his affairs or until twenty-six weeks.
$10,000 costs $50 per year, and allows $50 weekly compensation.
WM. A. BAYLER, President.
EDWARD GREENE, Secretary.
JAMES W. ARROTT, Agent,
No. 37 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
62 Two good Canvassers wanted.
dec14-3m

MORRIS FIRE AND INLAND

Insurance Company, New York.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL.....$5,000,000.
Cash Capital and Surplus, July 1, 1865.....$883,000.
ABRAM M. KIRBY, Secretary. E. A. STANSBURY, President.
Applications for Insurance received and Policy issued by
JAMES W. ARROTT, Agent,
No. 37 Fifth street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
dec14-3m

PERFUMERY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

TOILET ARTICLES.
Lubin's Extracts,
Lew's Extracts,
Rubin's Extracts,
Lubin's Toilet Waters,
Lubin's Burnetta Cocoa,
Fancy Perfume Boxes,
Oyl Antique Bohemia Ware.
Toilet Sets,
Puff Boxes, French,
Florida Water,
Farina Cologne,
Lavender Salts,
Gold Hair Powder,
Silver Hair Powder,
Shell Hair Brushes,
Ivory Hair Brushes,
Toilet Mirrors,
Shaving Brushes,
Dressing Combs,
Fine English Razors,
Fine Pocket Flasks,
Fine Wallets, Morocco,
Cigar Cases,
Cigar Holders,
Toilet Purses,
Watch Stands,
Turkish Towels,
Shaded Lamps.
McCLARIN, FLEMING & HANNAN,
Successors to N. McClarran & Co.,
dec12 85 Market street, cor. Diamond near Fifth.

PURE NORTH CAROLINA TAR.

Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
Pure North Carolina Tar,
TURPENTINE AND ROSIN,
Turpentine and Rosin

The Daily Commercial

SAND-CASTLES.

BY MRS. J. L. B. WYCKOFF.

Upon the hard, white-sanded beach,
At sunrise we with mates may reach;
There play ed a child, whose lisping speech
And winsome ways, were my life's spell;
To win the love of all who knew
The darling boy, and as he played,
His solemn eyes, and sunny head,
A holy, witching picture made.

The waves came leaping to his feet,
As if to kiss him, as they broke
Along the shore, in murmur sweet,
As though old ocean gently spoke;
While he, the boy, a heap of sand
Had raised, a castle fair to view,
With towers, and draws, and turret grand,
Of mimic style, in likeness true.

Nor knight, nor prince, more proud than he,
Of his gay structure he had made;
Nor did he dream the stately fane
Could make the pretty fairie fade;
And there he played the evening hours
Of that bright summer's day, without
A thought of winds, or waves, or showers,
To mar his sportsome, merry bout.

And when night came, he scarce could sleep,
So eager he to sport once more
Upon the shining beach, where he's wept
The crested waves along the shore.
At last he slept, and sweetly dreamed
His castle, tips and marble brow—
His wand'ring eyes that were so beamed,
Are calm, and hushed and quiet now.

And while he slept the long night through,
The rain descended on the strand;
The floods, they came; the winds they blew,
And beat the house upon the sand;
And it fell and total ruin fell
Thereon. Morn broke upon the world
In splendor, having thrown the pall
Of night aside, its folds drawn furled.

The sunlight kissed the sunny wave,
It made the trees with diamonds hang;
All bright the flow'rs their odors gave,
While all the earth with music rang.
No trace was left at roaming wind,
Or swelling flood; all, all was now
Serene as some fair statue shrined,
While busy calm on its cool brow.

The little architect awoke,
And hasted with expectant heart
Adown the beach. "Oh! where," he spoke,
"Is now my castle rave?" A dart
Of anger, grief, wrath quiv'ring through
His soul, and bitter tears rained fast,
As to a vest he met his view,
Of all his toil and labor past.

The smooth, wide-stretching sand was all
He saw; no even a foot print there
To mark the spot. He struck his small,
White fist, in pow'rless rage, and where
The side fell up the shelly beach,
He threw him down and groaned in pain;
His spirit was all too great for speech,—
He could but weep and weep again.

Oh! pilgrims in a weary land,
Where all is care and wild unrest,
Build not your hopes upon the sand,
Or they will fail when put to test.
There is a rock on which to found
Your faith—the Rock of Ages, true
And firm; O see grace and strength abound,
And there, your soul's salvation too.

STEUBENVILLE, O., Dec. 11th, 1865.

WINTER FASHIONS.

Ladies' Bonnets, Hats Dress Goods and Dresses, Cloaks, Shawls, Skirts, Hoops and India Rubber Goods.

The season is now so far advanced that the styles for winter may be considered established, and the feature of the prevailing modes is their showiness and the expensiveness of almost every article of ladies' apparel.

The tinsel and gold ornaments are employed more extensively for trimming bonnets, hats, dresses, opera cloaks, etc., than it was thought they would be, and sometimes the entire veil is covered with gilt spangles. These trimmings, if not used lavishly, have, it is conceded, a very pretty effect; but the tawdry ornaments that tarnish quickly, and are often used profusely, have probably run their course. Everything in style is "gay and festive." The shop windows are full of bright colored goods. Few plain colors are worn; red being the favorite. There are red petticoats, and red trimmings for petticoats of **black, white, grey, or striped,** and red for children's dresses and cloaks. There is danger that this cheerful color will lose its charm from excessive use.

BONNETS.

There has been no improvement nor change in the style of bonnet during the past month, and it is usually admitted that a more unattractive shape could not have been invented, or one more unbecoming to nearly all faces. However, the bonnets seem perfectly suited to the accustomed eye. Velvet is the favorite material, with small ostrich feathers as the elegant decoration. The front is sometimes made of velvet and the crown of satin, in some contrasting color. The floating veil, which is fully a yard long, and about three-fourths of a yard wide, is considered indispensable with the English hat. The small veils, that do not fall much to some extent, are no longer fashionable.

HATS.

The round hats are generally preferred to the bonnets by young ladies, and are much worn. There is the usual variety of shapes. The three-cornered, the Glengarry cap, the cavalier, intended for a riding hat, and the "Lady Derby," made of black velvet, with round crown. The last named hats are also made in cloth, but if it were not for the long veil, might be supposed to be men's hats.

DRESS GOODS.

There are at present no novelties in dress fabrics, but there is what is called a "rage" for expensive materials. Not only silks and velvets never before been sold in New York during the same length of time as in this season. For ordinary wear the Scotch linsey-woolsey, or "winsey" as it is sometimes called, is a very durable material, especially when composed of all wool; but when made of mixed cotton and wool it shrinks on exposure to damp weather. Heavy materials, such as water-proof, empress and cotton cloths, are by many persons preferred to merino for walking dresses. These goods are better suited than lighter material for the gored dress so much in use this season.

MODES FOR DRESSES.

Dress skirts are very full, and are usually cut goring, though the straight skirt is still, to some extent, in vogue. The richest materials are ornamented in a simple and showy manner, if at all. The round, high waist appears to be the favorite, though jackets are much admired. The square or pompadour corsage is a very stylish, and to a good figure is becoming. The coat sleeve is still very fashionable, but there are a number of more fanciful patterns to suit all tastes. Evening dresses of bright colored silks are much worn. They are cut goring and square in the neck. They are also a revival of the style of the seventeenth century—the dress being cut low and square in front, but higher in the back, a large **x**-piait at the back, which hangs loose from the back, and the skirt trails for a yard and a half.

CLOAKS.

Basquines made of heavy beaver cloth and velvet are the leading style, but circulars and loose sacques are also much worn. The cloth cloaks are trimmed with fur, Astrachan cloth, black Angora fringe, like ball fringe, and buttons, some of the latter patterns of fanciful styles. Lace is more used for trimming velvet; though the dark fur makes a very pretty, warm-looking trimming. Gimp and lace buttons have been invented of so large a size that in Paris they are called "clowns," or Pierrot buttons.

A novelty in cloak styles is a sort of military coat, with wide cuffs, wide pockets, and large buttons. It is rather loose, and has a dashing look, but is not yet much worn. Upon some of the winter cloaks, long strokings, made of the same material as the cloak, and with the edges bound, are worn. They have a graceful look, as they are more easily moved in the wind than cord and tassels.

Opera cloaks are made round, and usually of white material. There is an elegant style, however, in scarlet cloth, trimmed with white silk plush, and ornaments of rich white cord and tassels.

Children's cloaks, made round, of white lamb's wool, and bordered with goat's hair, are very pretty. Others are made of scarlet cloth, and are trimmed with cord. The black and white wool checks, trimmed with ball fringe, are also tasteful cloaks for children of a few years of age. But for the child in arms the cloak preferred is made of two circular capes, the upper one much smaller than the other, richly embroidered.

In furs there is nothing new, the "Empress" collar being the leading style. The pocket muff, with the head of the skunk as the cover to the front, is occasionally seen on the street, but is not yet counted fashionable.

SHAWLS.

In heavy shawls there are a variety of styles. The Magyar, or Hungarian shawl, which has a shaggy appearance, is very warm and suitable for carriage use. The Alsida and the Alexandra are also warm and durable. A very neat square shawl of gray, with a wide white and black border, known as the Beatrice pattern, is new. The Ismar in drab and black is a warm, durable shawl. But there is a greater demand for the Scotch plaids in blue, green, and other bright colors with white, than for any of the other styles.

SKIRTS.

Quilted skirts, made of black silk, black alpaca, etc., and stitched or trimmed with some contrasting color, are much worn. They are heavier and warmer than the balmorals, and have a neat appearance. Balmorals are still made in almost every style, of black and white, grey, mixed, striped, and red, and are heavily trimmed. The red skirts trimmed with black are worn to some extent. For evening wear a skirt of white moreen flounced is considered neat.

There is a new invention, recently introduced, to cover the lower part of the hoop. The cloth is cut goring and double, about half a yard deep, and is neatly finished with black braid (according to the color of the skirt. It has eyelets, about three or four inches apart, upon the upper edges, and is basted upon the hoops. It not only prevents the hoop from soiling, but looks well, and with it the large hoops are manageable.

HOOPS.

It is more than ten years since the old style of hoop (which was fashionable in the last century) was revived in much improved form; and it is a noteworthy fact that it has outlived almost every other fashion, notwithstanding the circumstance that it has often been asserted that "the highest authority in the fashionable world" had decreed its banishment. At times a few fashionable ladies appeared without hoops, and there was a rumor that the style of the gored dress would cause them to diminish, or supersede them. But to adapt them to the dress the lower springs have grown larger, until now they measure nearly five yards around. They are so wide that they are not suitable to be worn with tall dress, for which the hoop is smaller and short, and the over skirt has a full flounce to give a graceful "sweep" to the dress. The latter hoops will be found inconvenient for skating—and out of place, or rather in the way, anywhere.

INDIA-RUBBER GOODS.

There is a greater variety than usual in India-rubber goods this season. Among the new things introduced, is an improvement in the quality and finish, on the floth piano covers. They are damask color, and the borders consist of a vine of raised leaves and flowers in gilt and bright colors. But something quite new is the India-rubber Afghan, or mosaic robe, both sides richly variegated in bright colors, and the edge finished by a fringe of zephyr wool. It is not only showy but exceedingly useful, as it is dust-proof, wind-proof, and water-proof, making one of the most valuable of carriage robes.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

An Aristocratic Wedding.

The London *Morning Post* gives the following description of the wedding of Earl Dudley to Miss Monerieffe:

"The bride wore a rich dress, with a tunic, bodice and veil of valuable French lace. It was originally intended for the Empress Eugenie, and was valued at upward of two thousand pounds. She also wore a handsome bracelet of pearls and diamonds, a wedding present from the inhabitants of Dudley, and a matchless set of pearls of five rows, thought of her noble husband just before setting out for the altar. The presents were very costly, and all the jewels of the most rare and choice description, the principal and most unique of the whole collection being a matchless parure, consisting of a diadem, necklace, brooch, ear drops, and bracelets, composed of rubies and diamonds of the finest quality—the rubies specimen stones—set in pure classical style and most elegant form. The value was nearly £9,000. There were also a pair of very fine sapphire and diamond ear rings; a locket or brooch in the same

The Daily Commercial

FINANCE AND TRADE.

BANKERS' AND BROKERS' BOARD.

S. M'CLEAN, JR., Pres't. | J. M. TIERNAN, V. P.
S. S. BRYAN, (STOCK AND REAL ESTATE BROKER,) Secretary.

Meets Daily at 10½ o'Clock, A. M.

TRANSACTIONS DEC. 14, 1865, AT THE BOARD:

	Bid.	Asked.
United States 6's 1881	107 50	----
United States 5-20s	102 30	----
United States 7-30s	97 25	----
United States 10 40s	90 50	----
United States 1yr certificates	98 50	----
Gold	142 50	----
Allegheny County 5s	90	----
Pittsburgh City 6's	99	99 50
Allegheny Valley Railroad 7's	101 50	----
Connellsville Railroad 7's	79 00	----
Monongahela Insurance Co.	42 00	----
Allegheny Valley Railroad	7 00	12 00
Connellsville Railroad	9 25	----
Citizens' National Bank	----	84 00
Exchange Bank	81 00	----
First National Bank	150 00	156 00
Fourth National Bank	114 00	----
Merchants' National	87 25	----
Third National Bank	128 00	----
Columbia Oil Co. ex div.	26 25	----
Cherry Run and Bitholo	25	----
Revenue	90	----
Railroad	2 00	----
Coal Hill	1 25	----

SALES.

20 shares First National Bank 150 00
10 shares Monongahela Ins. Co. raised 50 00
700 shares Cherry Run Central 20
500 shares Cherry Run Central 3½

THURSDAY, December 14—P. M.

There was a sharp rise in Governments to-day, and the demand for the 6 per cent. Thirty bonds is very brisk. They are running up fast to par. The favorable turn which these securities have taken has a good influence upon the solid stocks generally, and the tendency is pointing to higher quotations.

—The transactions at the Board this forenoon exceeded the average number. The list is pretty complete with our home securities. As many of our banks make their dividends in a few weeks, their stock is a good deal inquired for at this season. Sales of 150 for First National sold at 150, and the People's at 105. Oil shares continue depressed. Cherry Run Central improved in price and sold at 25 cents. Parties are occasionally picking it up at a venture.

—The following is a statement of the approximate earnings of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway Company during the month of November, compared with the same period of last year:

	1865.	1864	Increase Decr'se.
Freights	$1,042,797	$867,818	$174,979
Passengers	243,502 23	205,350 89	
Mails, express, &c.	76,000 00	57,000 00	$43,943 63
Wages matter	1,365 55	1,073 75	2,939 30
Repairs of road	7,825 00	7,825 00	
Rent of Bridge	7,083 33	7,083 33	
Miscellaneous	1,200 00	1,200 00	740 00
Total	$779,471 63	$691,555 77	$87,877 86
Earnings			$43,943 63
Earnings from January 1 to November 30, 1865			$8,582,328 51
Same time in 1864			$8,538,384 88
Increase in 1865			$43,943 63

—The practical heads in financial matters—savers and bank officers—are gratified to find the Secretary of the Treasury acknowledging that his measures must be regulated by the condition of the country, and that any violent expedients would defeat themselves. This tends to allay apprehensions of any serious disturbance of the financial equilibrium. Some of the ardent defenders of the legal-tender act find themselves unexpectedly in antagonism with high authority in consequence of the Secretary's distinct avowal of the unconstitutionality of that measure; and the shinplasters for Governmental regulation of the currency are similarly nonplussed by his assertion of the important principle that the volume of the currency should be left free to contract or expand with the common necessity. Not a few are of opinion that the Secretary's policy of funding the currency will prove a failure; but, from the general tenor of his report, they conclude that he will not seriously derange the markets by persistent attempts to drive his measures through impossibilities.

The secretary of the Treasury devotes considerable space to the National Banks, commending the system in the highest terms of praise, and that it may be rendered more perfect and more useful, urges that they be required "by compulsion or their own voluntary act, to keep their notes at par in the principal money markets of the country." This emphatic recommendation of the secretary, concurred in by the Comptroller, for the redemption of National Bank-note currency at the financial centres, is fair to be a strong blow at the policy of the anti-redemptionists, and probably will facilitate the early organization of the Assorting house scheme determined upon by a large majority of the Clearing-house banks. Another just rebuke is found in the report of the comptroller, which suggests that a penalty be imposed upon banks for issuing notes with the engraved and printed signatures of the officers. The greatest protection against counterfeiting is found in the written signature of those through whom the bills are issued.

—Much interest prevails in stock circles in Philadelphia in reference to the application for an injunction, to the Supreme Court of this State, asked for by the Philadelphia and Erie and Pittsburgh Railroads, to set aside the lease of the Catawissa to the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad. The allegation, on the part of the Philadelphia and Erie, is that they having some years ago leased a portion of their road to the Catawissa Company, the latter cannot now lease the whole to any other company whatever.

—The subject of the express business and its relations to the interest of railroad stockholders is attracting some public attention. It is noticed that all the express companies are making money very rapidly, and large stockholders in railroads begin to think that they enjoy the cream of the transportation business to such an extent as to interfere very materially with the dividends of the companies that own the roads. There is doubtless a good deal of force in this suggestion, for while the railroad companies think they are doing very well for their stockholders when they earn them eight or ten per cent. per annum, the express companies are paying their stockholders twenty and twenty-five per cent. on par values, which are assessed to have been made up in a large measure with out cash payments.

—The following letter is published in the London *Times*, dated at the Treasury Department, at Washington, November 1, and is said to have been received from the Secretary by a merchant in London, although it is signed "J. F. M'Culloch:"

"The subject of issuing bonds, the principal and interest of which shall be made payable in Europe, is receiving my careful consideration, and will, I doubt not, receive the attention of Congress at the approaching session.

"As you have witnessed the overthrow of the rebellion, and are now from time to time, advised of the rapid progress which is being made in the restoration of the federal authority over the recently rebellious States and the re-establishment of civil government therein under the Federal Constitution, I trust you will also witness at no distant day the rapid funding of our floating debt and the establishment of our financial credit on the most satisfactory basis."

PITTSBURGH GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
FRIDAY, December 15, 1865.

The general market was dull and inactive, the demand being of a local character, prices were irregular. A general dullness seems to prevail in regard to all the leading articles. The impression gains ground that nothing of importance will be transacted until after the advent of the new year. That is so far as produce is interested. Another change has taken place in the weather; winter has at last paid us a visit. The prospect is favorable for good packing weather; if our large operators can only realize that we have in the time as regards the weather. The principal drawback seems to be the high prices demanded for the raw material; so long as packers fail to see their way clear they will certainly hold off and content themselves with purchasing bulk for smoking, so as to dispense with slaughtering. The sales at the Central Yards during the week were not very extensive, the ruling prices, five cents weight, were fragile ₱ cwt. The export demand has largely fallen off, as compared with the previous week's exports. From all the information we can gain it certainly looks like a short supply of meat and high prices for the coming season. Business on the landing was not very active; freights did not appear very plenty. Among the boats loading were the *Financier* for Cincinnati she is announced for this day. The *Bayard* left on time with a good trip. The new steamer *Messenger* is receiving for New Orleans; she will have dispatch. The *America* is receiving for St. Louis with her bills out for Saturday. Passengers and shippers will bear this in mind. The pretty steamer *Julia No. 2* will be found at the landing this morning; she will return to Zanesville at four P. M. on Saturday. Below will be found the sales that came under our notice:

APPLES.—The near approach of the holidays has improved the demand and to-day the figures were higher than ever before. The sales to lots comprise some 200 bbls at various prices ranging from $4 00@5 00, and up to $6 00 per bbl.

EGGS.—The market was dull, with only a limited demand; sales, 5 bbls at 30@35c per doz.

HOMINY.—The market continues to be well supplied with this article; sales, 10 bbls at $4 25 per bbl.

CHEESE.—The supplies have materially increased during the week, with a fair demand; sales of 30 boxes (cheese at 22@22½c; Hamburg, 20½@21½c; no sales of Western reserve to report.

MALT.—The market was steady, but not active, an occasional sale being reported at $1 50.

HOPS.—Prices have been somewhat firm, with sales of New York at 60c and Western at 70c.

CRANBERRIES.—The market contains a good supply of both descriptions, common and cultivated; sales of the former at $4 00@5 00 per bbl, and $6 00 per bbl; supply ample.

SUGAR.—This article is attracting a larger share of attention; it appears to have taken the place of New Orleans molasses, which is almost entirely shared from our midst. We note sales 15 bbls at 8c per gallon.

BUTTER.—The market was not very active. Receipts have fallen off. This has strengthened the views of holders who were asking an advance. Sales were made at 28, 29@30c, as per quality.

BRANS.—The market has been inactive; buyers are more disposed to operate on the sales in a small way at $1 90@2 75, as per quality.

FLOUR.—We have nothing new to furnish our readers in regard to this article; the demand being limited, and sales were of a retail character. We have never witnessed less disposition to operate than at the present time; hence the sales were few and far between. We quote as follows: Extra Family, white spring wheat, sales of 75 bbls at $8 00@8 25; from winter wheat sales of 25 bbls at $10 00; and 100 bbls at $9 50; Rye, at $6 25@6 50 do at $10 25@10 50; Fancy sold at higher figures.

APPLE BUTTER.—We note sales of 20 gallons of new at $1 @1 25.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—Prices declined a shade. We note sales of 5,500 lbs at 5½@5½c ₱ lb.

HAY.—The market was steady; sales of 10 tons of baled on the track at $15 00 @ 16 00; sales of 10 loads of loose, at the scales, at $15 00@18 00 ₱ ton.

HIDES.—Dressed hogs are commencing to arrive more freely. We note sales of 3,000 lbs at 11½c ₱ lb.

HOGSHEADS.—The market appeared weak. We note sales of 27 bbls of western at $2 25 ₱ gal.

GRAIN.—The market was dull, with a light demand for most descriptions. The sales were confined to small parcels for local purposes. Corn is selling from first hands at 70c; sales of 100 sacks, from store, at 75c per bushel. Barley is not very active; spring toasted at 75c; fall at $1 00@1 10 per bushel. Wheat—We note sales of 1 car load, at depot, of red at $1 85. Oats dull; prices have a downward tendency; sales of 100 bushels at 44c. Rye—Sales of 3 car loads, at depot, at 96c@97c.

PEACHES.—Sales of 17 dozen, 3 lbs canned peaches, at $6 00 per dozen.

ASHES.—Were in fair demand. Sales of 10 tons common sort Ash at 8½c; 6 do refined at 9½c, and 11 tons Pearls at 12c.

LEAD.—Sales of 500 pigs Galena at 12c.

FEAD.—Sales of 1 car load of middlings at $1 30 per cwt. as 2 tons middlings at $1 62 per cwt.

DRIED FRUITS.—Sales of 5 barrels apples at 9c @ 9½.

POTATOES.—Were less firm, but prices were unchanged. We note sales of 100 barrels at $3 50 per bbl; sales of 75 bushels at $1 10 per bushel.

Cotton and Provision Market.

December 12.—The Provision market shows a decline in all articles as compared with last week's report, and has been as devoid of spirit as then. The consumptive demand for meats is all in all, and the supply is not keen in the number of orders, but they have mostly been for small amounts, showing a general lack of confidence in prices. There was a little stiffening up to-day as compared with a day or two ago, but the current quotations are $27 50 for mess Pork, with light offerings at less than $27 00. We be for Lard in bbls, 20c in kegs, and sales at 17½@18c in tcs; 15½@16c for bulk Shoulders; 14@c for bulk Sides; 16c for bulk clear Sides, packed, and small amounts in the form of hams; 13½@14c for the set of 12c; loose; 15c for Green Hams are the only articles of green Meats for which there is nothing doing, and they have ruled firm all day or two; 5c, the outside price applying to light weights.

Bacon clear Sides is the only article of Bacon selling, and they are the ruling figures for new and old.

Sugar cured Hams sell at 26c.

Louisville Provision Market.

December 12.—In provisions the markets are quite unsettled. We note sales of 1,200 Mitchell & Armstrong sugar cured hams, to be delivered next week at 26c, and 12,000 do clear sides at 16c. A dispatch from Cincinnati, received at 1 o'clock to-day, stated that logs had declined $1 per hundred, and that clear sides were selling in Cincinnati on Saturday last at 15½c. We have not heard of them to-day at 16c, at which we note sales of 12,000 lbs here to-day at that price. We hear of many large sales of lots, but orders filled for at figures as low or lower than the above quotations are not to be had in this market. We anticipate considerable activity in the provision trade, and shall be to interest dealers to give our dispatches will forbidding elsewhere.

Providence Wool Market.

December 9.—Wool—Market very quiet, and no change to report from last week. Sales for the week are 75,000 lbs fleece at 56c, Canada combing 72@75c per lb, delaine 60@65c, and Fine Clothing 55c. Stocks on hand at the close are the same as last week, viz: 2,000 pieces of delaine, 1,000 do fine, 1,000 do Canada, private lots, and about 50,000 lbs of fleece. Total sales 79,000 pieces.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
Friday, December 15, 1865.

Business was moderately active yesterday; buyers were on hand early in the day. There were considerable negotiations being carried on by the various dealers. Parties at a late hour were still posted in regard to the European news by the Java, old well picking up several thousand barrels at prices on which they will realize a handsome profit. The sales of Crude yesterday were light for the best of all reasons, there was but a light supply in the market, whilst certain holders of Crude withdrew their stock for higher prices. The advance did not reach the point which was expected. Lenox, these dealers whose figures were 30c, without packages did not effect transactions, with the exception of one 100 barrel parcel. The other sales were at 29@29c, according to the gravity. The river receipts only reached 1,625 barrels. The Allegheny was rising from previous rains. The weather has turned cold, and a few days like the present will soon make a good stage of water on that stream. Refined oil was in good demand. The sales of bonded, for future delivery, exceeded 7,300 barrels. The sales were made at a variety of prices according to the favor in which the brand was held by purchasers; for example, sales were reported at 66 up to 69c—a difference of three cents per gallon. The supply of refined oil on hand is very light, whilst many of our large dealers have made contracts that will carry them up to February. Free oil was firm but not very active.

CRUDE OIL—The sales were restricted, for the best of all reasons—supply on hand light. The following are the transactions:—Sales 200 bbls, free on cars, at 29c; sales 453 bbls at 29c, without packages; sales 100 bbls at 30c, including packages; sales 300 bbls at 29½@29½c, packages returned; sales 60 bbls at 29c; sales 100 bbls at 29c; sales 100 bbls at 28½c, including packages; sales 200 bbls Smith Ferry oil, free on cars, at 32½c.

REFINED OIL—The transactions in this article were quite limited. Of 1,500 bbls bonded, Philadelphia delivery, in January, sellers' option, at 69c. Sales of 800 bbls bonded, Philadelphia delivery, December, sellers' option, at 67c; sales of 1,000 bbls bonded, January delivery, at 68c; 500 bbls bonded, Pittsburg, 56c; at 56c on the spot; 400 bbls bonded, immediate, at 57½c; 500 bbls do, immediate, at 56c; 500 bbls bonded, free on cars, February delivery, at 58c. Free oil: sales of 50 bbls at 56c.

TAR.—Sales of 150 barrels, free on cars, at $5 10 per barrel.

BENZOLE.—We note sales of 260 barrels bonded, 60 gravity, at 47c, and 50 barrels 60 gravity at 49c per gallon.

Oil Receipts per A. V. R. R.

DOING EAST.

Standard Oil Company, 271 bbls refined, Philadelphia.
W. Mackeown & Bro., 153 bbls refined, Philadelphia.
Cochel, Pendleton Company, 225 bbls refined, Philadelphia.
Lucesy Oil Company, 18 bbls, refined, Philadelphia.
Lucesy Oil Company, 60 bbls tar, Philadelphia.
S. McIlhaich & Co., 103 bbls refined, Philadelphia.
Anderson Petroleum Company, 25 bbls refined, Philadelphia.
Wade Hampton, 50 bbls refined, Harrisburgh.

Oil Receipts per Allegheny River.

Fisher Bro	686	Brewer Burke & Co
Hastings	481	Gillespie
	196	
Total	1,325	

New York Petroleum Market.

December 13.—On Saturday, the market was rather lifeless and dull, sales of crude were made as high as 31c, but on Monday and yesterday this price was not obtained, and the market closed dull very near to 30c, at 30½c. The sales are 6,200 bbls on the spot, at 30@30½c, 40@42° gravity, (including some at 30c, in bulk), and 476 bbls for the regular 25th, 250 do regular gravity, all the month B. O., 2,000 do January, 41@42c; B. O., and the C., and 2,000 do February, 42c in bulk; B. O., refined closed quite easier, though the sales have been to a fair extent, the